

the relationship and moved on with her life. She married and began a career. A few years later, Joelle received an e-mail one day. It was supposedly sent from a woman she did not know, but whoever sent it knew her. Then a second e-mail came with more personal details that no stranger could possibly know. Joelle began to suspect that the woman was really a man. By the third e-mail, Joelle was sure the e-mails were coming from her former high school boyfriend. She wrote back, naming him, and telling him to stop. Things went from bad to bizarre. The e-mails got much worse. They began to include pornography and threats like this: "Not only is it bad karma to have enemies, I'm a bad enemy to have."

Joelle was terrified. Then came phone calls in the middle of the night. Her phone number had been posted online by someone urging men to call her for sex. Joelle went to the local police, but they concluded there was nothing they could do because no law had been broken. Joelle and her husband moved to Seattle, but within months the nightmare came back. Joelle started receiving calls at work from men who had seen her number posted online in sex chat rooms. She again went to the local police and to the FBI, but nothing was done. Finally, her coworkers and supervisors received an e-mail that accused her of falsifying her employment credentials and of sexual misconduct. The city of Seattle's computer security officer, Kirk Bailey, became the white knight. He got people involved, but progress was painfully slow because no laws specifically address cyberstalking. Eventually an assistant U.S. Attorney got involved, but finding a law to deal with a 21st century crime has been tough.

A break in the case came when the ex used her phone number in a chat room. Authorities acted, using title 47 of the Telecommunications Act for the first time in a case like this. The ex-boyfriend has been charged, but it has taken years and a courageous woman willing to see it through.

And it is not over yet. Joelle and millions of other Americans need our help. By some estimates, one out of every 12 women in America is stalked online. The problem extends to men as well. Some States, including Washington, have acted to toughen the laws, but it is time to recognize that cyberstalking is a national problem. We are using a 20th century law to fight 21st century crime. That has to change. Cyberspace has no State borders. Cyberpredators can reach across State lines to terrorize their victims wherever they live and work. Americans like Joelle need the protection that only the Federal Government can provide. We need to modernize our laws to make sure they protect Joelle and every American.

Cyberspace has opened doors we are just beginning to understand. This one, we already know. Everyone has the right to feel safe and be safe. Anything less is wrong and should be illegal with

severe penalties. The first step is awareness. I am preparing a letter to circulate to my colleagues that will include newspaper accounts from Seattle about Joelle. We are going to work with the appropriate Members and committees in the House as soon as possible to tackle cyberstalking head-on. We will do what we need to do to clarify and strengthen our laws.

I urge both Republicans and Democrats to join me in protecting Joelle, to join me in protecting every American. Let the predators know that they are the only ones who should not feel safe today.

Joelle, you are not alone. Help is coming.

RECOGNITION OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the world has seen some tremendous advancements in the last couple of months. We have had NATO enlarge with 10 new members. Just Friday we saw the EU expand also, now including 25 European nations. We do have a Europe united, whole and free. An exciting new thing about the new entrants to NATO and the new members of the European Union is that they are involved and they are engaged and they are dedicated to promoting freedom and democracy and liberty around the world, not just in our conflict with international terrorism; and many of the new entrants are part of the coalition of the willing, but also in neighboring states, being involved in helping promote the formation of democratic ideas, the formation of the rule of law, judicial courts. It is these new former Eastern Bloc countries, new entrants to the EU, new entrants to NATO that are engaged in transforming Europe to be united, whole, free and at peace.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is a glaring exception in Europe and that exception is the nation of Belarus of which I speak just for a few moments tonight. Belarus is the last dictatorship in Europe. As we follow and as I follow and the Nation follows the upcoming elections, I want the people of Belarus to know that the United States will be watching these upcoming elections and that they have a partner that wants to ensure democracy wins.

However, current events threaten those elections. Current events continue to plague the people of Belarus and those who want democratic reform and freedom. On May 3, Anatoly Lebedko, chairman of the United Civic Party, was questioned at Minsk's Sovetsky District Police Department over his alleged participation in the unsanctioned April 26 Chornobylski Shlyakh (Path of Chernobyl) march in Minsk. The police alleged that Lebedko was an "offender" for participating in

the march and continued their interrogation until it was proven with their own video of the event that Lebedko had not even been there.

Despite that, Lebedko remains a target of the police and their harassment. Could it be that Lebedko has emerged as a threat to the current regime by advocating freedom and democracy? The important thing for the current regime in Belarus to understand is that Washington and the world are watching. The exciting thing about the upcoming election is that many of the parties that have for years been adversaries have been united, and they are united in forming a ticket from the UCP to the trade unionists. In fact, they call themselves the Group of Five, five diverse parties from the far left to the far right, united to have a strong presence on the ballot to give the people real choice, one choice that represents freedom and democracy versus an authoritarian totalitarian regime that we now find in Belarus.

I ask my colleagues here in this House to continue to keep the people of Belarus in their prayers as we hope and pray that they are the next European country that moves to full, free, and unhindered democratic government and principles and joins the world of nations and the EU as strong participants in the battle for freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF MARY McGRORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for urging many of us to come to the floor today to say a few words about Mary McGrory, who passed away 2 weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, like countless people in this country and around the world, I loved Mary McGrory. She was an absolutely beautiful writer, and she was an absolutely beautiful person. To me, she was a treasured and dear friend. Mary's columns, which first appeared in the Washington Star and then in The Washington Post, were always well written and always right to the point.